

HSBC awards young entrepreneurs

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

HSBC yesterday awarded three winning teams at the Bangladesh finale of HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA) 2011.

The award ceremony was held at Lake Shore Hotel at Gulshan in Dhaka.

The teams were given gold, silver and bronze awards with cash prizes along with a chance to participate in a weeklong entrepreneurial tour in Hong Kong in June.

The gold award went to Stalwarts, a team of students from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) under Dhaka University, for their project CocoCrete that offers eco-friendly, high-strength but low-cost concrete using coir fibres from coconut husks to make buildings more resistant to earthquakes.

The gold team will also compete with other best teams from Brunei, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, Shanghai and Thailand for the regional championship.

The team Entrepreneurs from



Sanjay Prakash, second from left in the back row, chief executive officer of HSBC in Bangladesh, poses with the winners of HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards 2011 at Lake Shore Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

the faculty of business studies at DU clinched the silver award for their project Greennovationn. The project offers an environment-friendly, geographically sustainable and cost-effective housing material, made from jute.

The bronze award went to

Niloy, a group from the IBA. The team was awarded for their project Mini Water Treatment Plant that removes arsenic, pathogens and bacteria from water effectively and inexpensively.

Congratulating the winners, Sanjay Prakash, chief executive

officer of HSBC in Bangladesh, said: "We are proud to present the platform for these young talents to demonstrate their creativity in an international level."

Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Pran-RFL Group, was present at

the event as the chief guest.

For the local competition, HSBC staff visited different universities of Bangladesh and invited students' teams to submit their business ideas for the competition.

Around 300 teams from all over Bangladesh sent their ideas, where judges selected the best 30 for the second round. HSBC arranged special workshops and trainings for these 30 groups to help them turn ideas into detailed business cases.

Seven teams were chosen for the final round. After a final grooming by HSBC experts, three were selected as the winners on the basis of the merit of the business proposals, in-depth understanding of business concepts, commercial viability, innovation and presentation skills.

The award was launched for students in Hong Kong 11 years ago to encourage them in entrepreneurship with a specific focus on nurturing their innovation and creativity.

New senior officials for BATB



Aynul Kabir

Azizur Rahman

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Syed Mohammed Aynul Kabir has recently been appointed head of legal affairs of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) Company Ltd with effect from April 17.

The company also appointed Md Azizur Rahman as company secretary, BATB said in a statement yesterday. Prior to the assignment, Kabir served Sri Lanka's Ceylon Tobacco Company, a member of the British American Tobacco Group, as head of legal affairs.

Before joining BATB in 2006, Kabir was a practicing lawyer and a partner of Lee, Khan & Partners.

He got his LLB (honours) degree from Dhaka University in 1996 and LLM from University of Leeds in the UK in 1998. Kabir qualified as a barrister from the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1999.

Rahman is a faculty member and fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretary. He is also a member of The Institute of Internal Auditors and Honorary General Secretary of Intellectual Property Association of Bangladesh.

Japan's Canon posts Q1 profit fall, slashes outlook

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese high-tech giant Canon said Tuesday its business outlook was "extremely uncertain" as it announced profits fell in the first quarter after last month's earthquake and tsunami hit production.

January-March net profit slipped 2.4 percent from a year earlier to 55.5 million yen (\$680 million) while operating profit declined 5.0 percent to 82.5 billion yen.

Sales rose 11.1 percent to 839.2 billion yen on healthy demand for printers and digital cameras.

But the strong yen hurt earnings, Canon said. The strength of the Japanese currency has put many exporters at a disadvantage by making their products more expensive overseas and eroding their repatriated earnings.



Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of BRAC Bank, inaugurates a branch of the bank at Banashree in Dhaka yesterday.



Rangs Electronics Ltd, widely known as Sony-Rangs, launched a sales campaign titled "Mid Year Campaign" at Sonartori Tower in Dhaka yesterday. Customers will enjoy special price for all models of Bravia (LCD, LED and 3D) televisions.

Experts call for all-out support for women entrepreneurs

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Women entrepreneur financing should not be limited to loans only, rather it should be a complete relationship value that banks can offer, said experts yesterday.

They were speaking at a seminar on "Beyond Lending Approach -- Women entrepreneur financing" organised by Eastern Bank Ltd and International Finance Corporation at Dhaka Hotel Sheraton.

The beyond-lending approach relies primarily on relationship management, deposit products and other banking services for SMEs rather than relying only on lending products.

Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury, teacher of sociology, University of Dhaka, presented the key note speech.

The seminar stressed opening a business knowledge centre under the women entrepreneur cell to assist the women in

Robi deploys Oracle Exadata data warehouse

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mobile operator Robi, an Axiata Group company, has recently deployed the Oracle Exadata Database Machine X2-2 to power its data warehouse.

Robi replaced HP-based platform and EMC storage servers with Oracle Exadata Database Machine X2-2 to optimise its data query process and perform management analytics more efficiently.

In accelerating the query performance by 10 times and data loading by 30 times, Robi expects the data warehouse will improve the external services of the operator.

Exadata's state-of-the-art machine features the 'hybrid columnar compression' together with 'smart storage' and 'smart flash cache' that enables data to be compressed by two to 10 times for query mode and up to 50 times for archive mode without significant loss of performance, reducing data storage costs.

Running on Oracle Database 11g, Oracle Real Application Clusters, and Oracle Enterprise Manager, the Oracle Exadata Database Machine X2-2 consist of a complete package of software, servers, storage and networking for all data management.

"We have witnessed excellent results with Oracle Exadata Database Machine. It has helped us to simplify our IT infrastructure and reduce operation cost," said AK Monzur Morshed, chief technical officer of Robi.

The Oracle Exadata Base Machine has enabled the mobile operator to increase data mining and analytical efficiency to provide better services to Robi customers, Morshed added.

"The analytical capabilities and performance benefits Robi experienced are phenomenal. We are confident that with the Exadata Database Machine, organisations can continue to expand service offerings to their customers at the best price/performance point," said Chris Chelliah, vice president and chief architect of Oracle Asia Pacific.

Trimble launches roadshow on construction solutions

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Trimble Navigation, a leading global firm providing survey solutions, and Arneeb Enterprise organised a roadshow in the city yesterday to display solutions to construction, survey, and mapping.

They also showcased Trimble solutions for building construction, heavy and highway construction, construction tools, alignment planning, infrastructure, mapping and GIS, utilities, high precision 3D geospatial imagery at the event, UDITO

Bangladesh, at Sonargaon Hotel.

Mostafizur Rahman, state minister for land, inaugurated the roadshow. Delivering his speech, the state minister said the state-of-the-art technology and solutions would be crucial in digitising the country's complex land survey system.

He said the government is planning to digitise the land survey system as soon as possible.

Bryn Fosburgh, vice president of Trimble, delivered the keynote address, while Rajan Aiyer, managing director of Trimble India and

Mahabubuddin Ahmed, chief executive officer of Arneeb Enterprise, the authorised dealer of Trimble in Bangladesh, also spoke.

Headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, Trimble is a leading provider of advanced positioning solutions that maximises productivity and enhances profitability, and its operations range from land survey, construction, agriculture, transportation, telecommunications, asset tracking, to mapping, utilities, and mobile resource management.

Though best known for GPS technology, it integrates a wide

range of positioning technologies including GPS, laser, optical and inertial technologies with application software, wireless communications, and services to provide complete commercial solutions.

Its integrated solutions allow customers to collect, manage and analyse complex information faster and easier, making them more productive, efficient and profitable. Trimble products are used in over 100 countries around the world.

Founded in 1978, Trimble's revenue earning was US\$1.1 billion in 2009.



Shirin Sharmin Choudhury, third from left, state minister for women and children affairs, attends a seminar on "Beyond Lending Approach: Women Entrepreneur Financing", organised by Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) and International Finance Corporation/SEDF, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Monday. From left, Ali Reza Iftekhar, EBL managing director; Mohd Noor Ali, EBL chairman; Aftab ul Islam, SME Foundation chairperson, and Ian Cosby, head of SEDF, are also seen.

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